8. Third Language (Regional Language) Teachers on completion of five years of service in the region of their initial posting may be transferred to a different region on a rotational basis.

Amendment of maintenance provisions for Muslim Women

2833. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to bring radical changes governing maintenance to be paid to women, estranged from their husbands to ensure quick and reasonable relief by making amendment to Hindu Marriage Act, 1956, Divorce Act of 1955, Parsi Marriage Act and Muslims Marriage Act;

(b) whether no changes are contemplated in the maintenance provisions that apply to Muslim Women;

(c) if so, whether Government would convene a meeting of top Muslim leaders to carry out similar amendment to the 1986 legislation governing Muslim Women in view of their great demand; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) to (d) As per the information received from the Ministry of Home Affairs, the provisions for maintenance have been provided in the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 in regard to which the Government proposes to introduce a Bill in Parliament to amend Section 125 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 to remove the ceiling of maintenance as also to make an express provision therein for interim maintenance allowance. The provisions contained under Section 125 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 are common irrespective of their caste, community, religion etc.

As per the information supplied by the Legislative Department, that Department has taken up the amendments to the Indian Divorce Act, 1869, the Parsi Marriage and Divorce Act, 1936, the Special Marriage Act, 1954 and the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955 with a view to provide that the application for interim maintenance shall be disposed of within sixty days from the date of service of notice to the respondent. Action has been initiated to get this Bill passed in the Parliament. It may be mentioned that the Muslim Women are governed by the provisions of the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Divorce) Act, 1986 which contemplates to protect the rights of Muslim Women who have been divorced. At present no change is contemplated in the provisions of the said Act.